

Message Text

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, GR, TU

SUBJECT: STATUS OF GREEK MOSLEMS IN THRACE

REF: THESSALONIKI 062

1. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF ARTICLE WHICH APPEARED IN THESSALONIKI
PAPER "ELLINIKOS VORRAS" ON MOSLEMS IN THRACE:

QUOTE: A MOSLEM PAPER OF KOMOTINI ATTACKS GREECE AS IF
IT WERE PUBLISHED IN TURKEY

(KOMOTINI, FEB. 6): IN ONE OF ITS ARTICLES, THE WEEKLY
KOMOTINI PAPER "ILERI" ("FORWARD") DESCRIBES THE MOSLEMS
OF THE AREA AS BEING TREATED LIKE SLAVES BY THE GREEK
CHRISTIANS. THE PAPER ALSO ALLEGES THAT THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES
ISSUE NO LICENSES FOR FARM TRACTORS TO THE MOSLEMS BUT
ONLY TO THE GREEKS*

THE PAPER FURTHER ACCUSES THE AUTHORITIES FOR REFRAINING TO
APPOINT TURKISH TEACHERS TO THE SCHOOLS, AS A RESULT OF WHICH
THE LATTER "SPEND THEIR TIME IN THE COFFEE-SHOPS".

IN ANOTHER COLUMN, THE PAPER CARRIES INFORMATION WHICH
APPEARED IN THE "HAVADIS" PAPER OF CONSTANTINOPLE, ACCORDING
TO WHICH 459,000 TURKS OF WESTERN THRACE "WANT TO RETURN TO
THEIR NATIVE LAND". THE PAPER ADDS THAT "HUNDREDS OF

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REFUGEES FROM THAT AREA" WERE PRESENT AT THE CONGRESS

WHICH WAS ORGANIZED BY THE IZMIR BRANCH OF THE "ASSOCIATION FOR SUPPORT TO WESTERN THRACE. IN THE SPEECH HE MADE, THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ASSOCIATION, MR. SELAHELIN GILDIZ, SAID THAT "IN THE SAME WAY THE REFUGEES OF CYPRUS DESIRE TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMES, THE 450,000 TURKS OF WESTERN THRACE WANT TO GO BACK TO THE PLACE WHERE THEY WERE BORN". ENDING, THE PAPER STATES THAT GILDIZ CRITICIZED THE COUNTRIES WHICH SIGNED THE TREATY OF LAUSANNE "FOR HAVING ENCOURAGED GREEK ACTIVITIES". IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE "ILERI" PAPER IS PUBLISHED IN KOMOTINI BY A GREEK CITIZEN MOSLEM FROM WESTERN THRACE, WHO STUDIED THEOLOGY AT THE ANKARA UNIVERSITY AND IS A TEACHER AWAITING APPOINTMENT. IT DOES NOT SEEM LIKELY THAT THE CIRCULATION OF THE PAPER JUSTIFIES ITS EXPENSES. THE PUBLISHER IS BELIEVED TO BELONG TO THE CHAUVINISTIC MOSLEM PARTY OF MR. ERBAKAN, ONE OF THE VICE PRESIDENTS IN THE DEMIREL GOVERNMENT. "ILERI" WHICH HAS RELIGIOUS MOSLEM TRENDS, USUALLY CRITICIZES THE MOSLEM DEPUTIES OF THE AREA, AND THE "MOSLEM ESTABLISHMENT" IN GENERAL INCLUDING THE MUFTI. UNQUOTE. NEGROPONTE

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